

Doc. No. 1339-A (1)

Page 1*

No. 4894. CIPHER TELEGRAM FROM Y. MATSUOKA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO M. SHIGEMITSU, AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND

TELEGRAM NO. 49 (STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL) SENT ON 14 FEB.
(SHOWA 16), 1941, "RE THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSAL."

Concerning your telegram No. 77, the present proposal by the British Foreign Minister which is based on the report from Ambassador Craigie seems to have been made under the presumption or fear that Japan would acquire military bases etc. in Thailand and French Indo-China by taking advantage of the arbitration conference between Thailand and French Indo-China, and then commence military action against England in the South Seas concurrently with Germany's landing strategy against England. It is difficult to understand on what grounds Ambassador Craigie based the above alarming report to his home government. When the Vice-Minister visited him on the 12th he said, in reply to the Vice-Minister's question that he knew well from past experiences that Japan's politics and diplomacy were controlled by the military, and that he had made the present report based on the speech and action of military men of responsibility. So, to make sure, I at once carefully privately investigated in various fields whether such facts existed, but I could find no such facts. On the other hand, in view of the fact that every influential newspaper in England is loudly reporting the crisis between Japan and England, the present proposition seems to be trying to check Japan's advance to the South, if only for the present besides containing the strategic motive of turning America's interest toward Thailand and French Indo-China and cementing the cooperation between England and America in this sphere. Although I think you have noticed this matter already, I am sending you our observation for you to bear in mind.

Wired to the Ambassador in America.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____
 I.P.S. No. 1339A (1)

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 4 pages, dated 17 Feb., 1941, and described as follows:

No. 4894. CIPHER TELEGRAM FROM Y. MATSUOKA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO M. SHIGEMITSU, AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.

TELEGRAM NO. 49 (STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL) SENT ON 17 FEB. (SHOWA 16), 1941.

"RE THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSAL."

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the Official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Foreign Ministry

Signed at Tokyo on this
21st day of Sept., 1946.

/s/ K. Hayashi
 Signature of Official
 SEAL
Chief, Archives Sect.
 Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ Nagaharu Odo

Statement of Official Procurement

I, Richard H. Larsh, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
25 day of September, 1946.

/s/ Richard H. Larsh
 NAME
Investigation Division
 Official Capacity I.P.S.

Witness: /s/ T. Toguchi

電送第四八九四號

昭和十六年二月十四日起草

昭和十六年二月十四日午後六時〇分發

松 岡 大 臣 發

在 英

重 光 大 使 宛

女

英外相申出ニ關スル件

(暗) 第四九號 (極秘)

貴電第七七號ニ關シ

今次英國外相ノ申出ハ「クレイギ」大使ヨリノ報
告ヲ基礎トシ帝國ニ於テ泰佛印閩調停會議ヲ利用シ
テ泰佛印方面ニ軍事的地地等ヲ獲得シ、以テ獨逸ノ
對英上陸作戰ト相呼應シテ南洋方面ニ於ケル對英軍
事行動ニ着手スルニ非ニヤトノ稟意又ハ危懼ノ下ニ
爲サレタルモノト懸メラル、處「ク」大使ガ如何ナ
ル事實ヲ根據トシテ右ノ如キ「アラミング」ナル
報告ヲ本國政府ニ爲シタルヤハ斷ル不可解ニシテ、
十二日同大使ハ次官來訪ノ際次官ノ質問ニ對シ自分
ハ過去ノ經驗ニ依リ日本ノ政治外交ヲ支配シ居ルハ
軍部ナルコトヲ熟知シ居リ今回ノ報告モ軍方面ノ責
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ナリトモ牽制スルト共ニ米國ノ關心ヲ泰佛印方面ニ
モ向ケ同方面ニ於ケル英米ノ提携ヲ強化セシムムト
スル謀略的動機ヲモ多分ニ含ミ居ルヤニ認メラル、
右ハ既ニ御氣付ノコトトハ存スルモ當方觀測御含迄
在米大使ニ轉電セリ

1339 A(11)-3 cert-

證 明 書

「ワシントン」文書局 第 號
國 際 検 察 部 第一三三九 A (一) 號

典 據 及 ビ 公 正 ニ 關 ス ル 證 明

余、林義順ハ余ガ下記ノ資格ニ於テ、即チ外務省文書課長トシテ、日本政府ト公的關係ニ在ルモノナルコト、竝ニ該官吏トシテ余ガ茲ニ添附セラレタル、四頁ヨリ成ル、千九百四十一年ノ昭和十六年ノ二月十日附、下記題名、即チ英外相申出ニ關スル件（第四八九四號電報）ノ文書ノ保管ニ任ジ居ルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

余ハ更ニ添附ノ記録及ビ文書ガ日本政府ノ公文書ナルコト、竝ニ右ガ下記名稱ノ省又ハ部局ノ公式書類及ビ綴ノ一部ナルコトヲ證明ス。（若シアラバ綴番號又ハ引用、其ノ他公式書類又ハ綴ニ於ケル該文書ノ成規所在ノ公式名稱ヲモ特記スベシ）

1339A(11)-4 cert.

千九百四十六年／昭和二十一年／九月二十一日

東京ニ於テ署名

當該官吏署名欄

右ノ者ノ公的資格

証人

林

外務省文書課長

尾戸 長 泰

公式入手ニ關スル證明

余、Richard H. Larsh

ハ、余が總合國最高檢

官廳司令部ニ關係アルモノナルコト、竝ニ上記題

名ノ文書ハ余が公的ニ上、日本政府ノ上記署名官吏

ヨリ入手シタルモノナルコトヲ茲ニ証明ス。

千九百四十六年／昭和二十一年／九月二十三日

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